

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

SECRET

Control: 17071

Rec'd: OCTOBER 23, 1962

8:05 AM

W
Action
SS

Info

FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 554, OCTOBER 23, NOON

PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 554, BONN PRIORITY 505.

ELITE EYES ONLY

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO NATION BROADCAST LIVE AFN MIDNIGHT BERLIN TIME. I LISTENED AT BRANDT'S HOME WITH MAYOR AND BAHR AFTER DELIVERING BACKGROUND MESSAGE AS INSTRUCTED. BRANDT MENTIONED CHANCELLOR HAD PHONED HIM AT NOON TO SAY HE HAD WORD AMBASSADOR DOWLING RETURNING BONN AND WANTED CALL ON HIM DURING EVENING. CHANCELLOR ASKED BRANDT IF HE KNEW REASON FOR DOWLING'S CALL, REMARKING HALF FACETIOUSLY HE THOUGHT BRANDT MIGHT BE INFORMED IN VIEW LATTER'S INSIDE TRACK WITH AMERICANS.

BRANDT PLANNED GIVE NO PUBLIC REACTION TO SPEECH UNTIL THE MORNING. HIS PRINCIPAL COMMENT TO ME WAS HE WELCOMED PRESIDENT'S ASSURANCE THAT THE U.S. WOULD TAKE WHATEVER ACTION NEEDED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD TO PROTECT THE SAFETY AND FREEDOM OF PEOPLE TO WHOM WE ARE COMMITTED INCLUDING THE WEST BERLINERS. AT THE SAME TIME HE FELT THAT THE ACTION PROGRAM OUTLINED BY THE PRESIDENT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASSURANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF BERLIN AS IT WOULD SURELY IMPRESS THE KREMLIN. BAHR SAID HE THOUGHT ACTIONS CONTEMPLATED WERE BETTER THAN INVASION. AT ONE POINT BRANDT REFERRED TO ANTICIPATED SOVIET REJECTION US ASSERTIONS RE OFFENSIVE NATURE AND CAPABILITIES CUBAN MISSILE SITES AND REMARKED ON IMPORTANCE OUR PERMITTING NO DOUBTS TO EXIST CONCERNING SOUNDNESS OUR CHARGES ON THIS SCORE.

LIGHTNER

JTC

SECRET

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